

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6368

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10512

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT:

REF: (A) STATE 233141; (B) CARACAS 10391; (C) CARACAS 10392;
(D) CARACAS 10504

1. I APPRECIATE AUTHORITY GRANTED REF (A) TO SUBMIT A NOTE VERBALE ALONG LINES WE PROPOSED IN REF (C) WITH DELETION OF OUR SUGGESTED FINAL PARAGRAPH. HOWEVER, I HAVE SERIOUS QUALMS AS TO EFFICACY OF LEAVING AN AIDE MEMOIRE IN WRITING AS INSTRUCTED NUMBERED PARAGRAPH 6 REF (A).

2. AS WE POINTED OUT PARAGRAPH 5 REF (B), ANYTHING IN WRITING ALONG THESE LINES TO REACH PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL CAUSE AN EXPLOSION AND, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY NOT BE TO BENEFIT OF VENEZUELA, IT LIKewise WILL NOT BE TO BENEFIT OF THE US.

3. TODAY AT 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, THE DAILY JOURNAL, I WAS EFFUSIVELY GREETED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ WHO ASKED IF I COULD COME AND TALK WITH HIM. I ENJOYED A SIMILAR WELCOME FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT. THEREFORE, THERE IS A VENEZUELAN INVITATION AT HIGHEST LEVEL TO REOPEN AN ORAL DIALOGUE. I AM PERFECTLY WILLING TO LEAVE A WRITTEN NOTE VERBALE AS AUTHORIZED REF (A) PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 4, BUT STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST --REPEAT AGAINST-- ANY FURTHER WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AS INSTRUCTED PARAGRAPH 6 REF (A) WHICH COULD ONLY SERVE
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TO UNDO WHATEVER FAVORABLE CLIMATE MIGHT BE ACHIEVED BY AN ORAL

PRESENTATION. I AM ENTIRELY DISPOSED TO MAKE SUCH AN ORAL PRESENTATION DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER FIRST INFORMING FOREIGN MINISTER OF THIS INTENT. I WOULD LEAVE THE WRITTEN NOTE VERBALE WITH SCHACHT BEFORE SEEING PRESIDENT PEREZ.

4. THIS COULD GRACEFULLY BE MADE TO COMPLEMENT ENCOURAGING PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT PEREZ DESIRING RESUMPTION OF A DIALOGUE AND CHARACTERIZING THE US AS THE "NUMBER ONE PARTNER OF VENEZUELA." (REF D) IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THE TIDE IN OUR FAVOR IF WE DO NOT RUB CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ THE WRONG WAY.

5. AM I AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER SUBSTANCE LAST SENTENCE PARAGRAPH 7 WHICH CORRESPONDS MORE OR LESS TO RECOMMENDATION WE MADE IN PARAGRAPH 6 REF (B)?
MCCLINTOCK

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